



#281D
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Selifonov et al.

Application No.: 09/495,668

Filed: February 1, 2000

Title: METHODS OF POPULATING DATA
STRUCTURES FOR USE IN
EVOLUTIONARY SIMULATIONS

Attorney Docket No.:
MXGNP002X1/0159.210

Examiner: Kim J. Young

Group: 1631

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11 and 26.

Please replace claims 1 and 17 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method of identifying for production molecules represented by concatenated strings, said method comprising:
 - i) encoding two or more related biological molecules into a data structure of initial character strings to provide a collection of two or more different initial character strings wherein each of said biological molecules comprises at least about 10 subunits;
 - ii) selecting at least two substrings from said initial character strings;
 - iii) concatenating said substrings to form one or more product strings about the same length as one or more of the initial character strings;
 - iv) adding the product strings to a data structure to populate a data structure of product strings; and